

# HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CAP- TAIN ANDREW D. BYERS

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Captain Andrew D. Byers, who died on November 3, 2016, in Kunduz province, Afghanistan.

Captain Byers was assigned to B Company, Second Battalion, Tenth Special Forces Group, based at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as part of the mission to train, advise, and assist local forces.

Captain Byers was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, with a distinguished career of service to our Nation, including prior deployments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Italy.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to Captain Byers' family, friends, and teammates.

## HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longtime quarterback of Team Maryland, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades in Congress.

Senator MIKULSKI has truly made history, both by her extraordinary longevity and her tenacious leadership. She is the longest serving woman in the Senate, and the first Democratic woman elected to the Chamber in her own right.

BARBARA and I bonded over our shared passion for local government. We both know it is where the rubber meets the road, and we both believe that all politics is local. That is what has made her so popular and so effective.

We have both worked hand in hand as appropriators, Senator MIKULSKI as the ranking member of her respective committee. She has worked tirelessly for critical resources to improve our roads, schools, and police, to create jobs and create opportunities.

There are two things about Senator MIKULSKI that have always impressed me in her public service:

First, she always relates to her father's corner store on South Eden Street in Baltimore City. When he opened his doors each day, he would say, "How may I help you?" Senator MIKULSKI often quotes that mantra and, more importantly, lives by it every day of her life for the people of the State of Maryland.

The other thing that impresses me is a saying she always says, "It is not

about the building." Senator MIKULSKI has never cared about the bricks and mortar. She cares about the people who work inside the building, what they can do, how they help the citizens, and how she can help them.

BARBARA, for all you have done for Baltimore, for Maryland, and for the country, the words "thank you" just don't seem enough. I am very proud to call you my friend and mentor, and I wish you all the best in the days ahead.

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## HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to someone whom I have known and called a friend for many, many years—over three decades, perhaps four—BARBARA MIKULSKI—the tallest short person I have ever met. She fills a room. Everybody knows when BARBARA MIKULSKI is in the Chamber or in the room or in the auditorium.

BARBARA MIKULSKI, as you have heard, will retire at the end of this Congress after having served Maryland in the House and Senate since 1977. I had the opportunity to serve with her in this House for some 6 years.

For 40 years, she has been a voice for the people of our State, not just a voice for all people, but, in particular, for those people whose voices needed amplifying: the poor, the sick, the overworked, the underpaid, the Baltimore dockworkers worried for their jobs, the women earning less than their male colleagues for the same work, the children in foster care or in homeless shelters. All of them have come to see BARBARA MIKULSKI as their champion.

In many ways, she began her career as a social worker and brought that work to Congress. She returns as one of the most successful social workers in history. She has worked hard to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, to support America's first responders, and to broaden our exploration of space and science. What a giant she has been for NASA. She has helped seniors afford health care and keep America's promise to its veterans. She passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act to end the wage gap once and for all, and has fought continuously to raise the minimum wage.

Senator MIKULSKI blazed the trail as the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress; was the first woman to be elected without a relative as a predecessor; and was the first woman and first Marylander to chair the Appropriations Committee. She has left an indelible mark on millions across Maryland and across America.

I have been proud to serve alongside her and I will miss her in the Capitol as I know so many others will as well. My

colleagues and I rise. We will lament the loss of Senator MIKULSKI as our colleague in the Congress, but we will be so proud that we have been able to call her colleague and friend.

## HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to reflect, once again, on Senator MIKULSKI's vision for America and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful that God has given me the opportunity to know and work with a woman who all would agree is a remarkable human being and a person I am honored to call my friend.

BARBARA MIKULSKI's progressive values are solid, and they are clear, and we have always known that she would fight for all of us every single day. Less well-known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of America's working families together in support of progressive change. Here is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown, in Baltimore, with my own heritage from south Baltimore and west Baltimore.

She is, indeed, a very, very special woman. She has never forgotten from whence she has come. One of the things I also love about BARBARA MIKULSKI is that she consistently synchronizes her conduct with her conscience.

We will miss her, but we know that BARBARA will always be fighting for the people of our great city, for the great people of the State of Maryland, and for the people of these great United States.

## HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, long before the last "Star Wars" movie came out, I said: When Senator MIKULSKI is with you, the Force is with you.

Senator MIKULSKI has been a powerful force for good in Maryland and throughout the Nation. She has been a fierce fighter for American workers, for our veterans, for our seniors, and for people from all walks of life. Her leadership on the Appropriations Committee brought vital investments to the thriving Port of Baltimore and to the Social Security Administration. She has supported security missions in places like Fort Meade, investments in lifesaving research at the NIH, and discoveries at NASA. She authored the very first bill that was signed by President Obama, the Lilly Ledbetter law, to give women who faced pay discrimination their day in court.

BARBARA MIKULSKI started in politics by fighting a plan to build a highway